

SENATE RESOLUTION 7006 of the First Extraordinary Session

By Gilmore

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Jason A. Carney for his accomplishments and contributions in the solar industry.

WHEREAS, the members of this body are proud to salute those intrepid, innovative citizens whose work makes a positive impact on Tennessee's youth, economy, and environment; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Jason A. Carney, a leader in the green energy sector who has the distinction of being the first African American in the State of Tennessee certified to design solar photovoltaic (PV) systems; and

WHEREAS, a native of Nashville, Mr. Carney graduated with a mechanical engineering degree from Tennessee State University and a master's degree in civic leadership from Lipscomb University. He has earned LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), BPI (Building Performance Institute), NABCEP (North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners), and PEM (Professional Energy Manager) certifications; and

WHEREAS, from August 2015 to October 2017, Jason Carney served as an energy consultant for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation; he is currently the president of the Tennessee Solar Energy Association and the owner of Energy Electives LLC, which he also serves as an energy consultant; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his knowledge base, skills, and experience, Jason Carney has a vision and a mission for his work in the energy sector; he sees a world in which communities of color have increasing access to solar energy and are equipped to participate in the green economy; and

WHEREAS, currently, African-American neighborhoods have sixty-nine percent less residential rooftop solar power than no-majority neighborhoods and are behind Hispanic and white neighborhoods in adoption of rooftop solar; furthermore, the Solar Foundation found that, as of 2015, zero percent of African Americans were employed in the solar industry in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, with a keen awareness of these statistics, Jason Carney has set about to remedy them; his mission is two-fold: to increase education and outreach by teaching students to design and install solar PV systems, and to advocate for the end of fixed fees that discourage energy users from adopting rooftop solar; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, Mr. Carney approached the Academy of Alternative Energy, Sustainability and Logistics at Whites Creek High School (WCHS) to incorporate solar into the existing curriculum; the goal became to expose the Whites Creek-Bordeaux community to the benefits of the green economy through solar PV technology and have student leaders design and build a solar energy array; and

WHEREAS, Jason Carney was instrumental in helping students at WCHS learn about the history of solar energy, how photovoltaics produce electricity, and the many careers that are linked to the solar industry; in addition to the curriculum, students gained real-world experience with professionals and equipment in the industry; and

WHEREAS, this project influenced hundreds of students over the more than four-year period of designing, planning, and execution, and on April 11, 2019, the Academy of Alternative Energy, Sustainability and Logistics at WCHS cut the ribbon on their community solar energy array; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carney is also a strong advocate for solar energy affordability; he has worked alongside his colleagues at the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy and Renew Tennessee in the fight against fixed fees throughout Tennessee; he is striving to bring public attention to these energy charges, which inhibit customers from controlling their energy expenses; and

WHEREAS, throughout his many accomplishments, Jason Carney has enjoyed the love and support of his wife and his two children; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee is made better because of innovators such as Mr. Carney, who not only devote themselves to excellence in their professions, but also give back to their communities in meaningful, life-changing ways; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and commend Jason A. Carney for his accomplishments and contributions in the solar industry, thank him for his commitment to serving his community, and extend our best wishes for much continued success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.